

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph immediately following the title on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/169,874 filed July 3, 2002; which has a right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-184541 filed in Japan on June 14, 2000, all of the contents of the application are incorporated as parts of the specification of the instant application by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The remedy for allergic diseases of the present invention can be obtained by mixing shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ with water and sugar followed by spontaneous fermentation, and the remedy is effective for treating allergic diseases such as asthma, atopic dermatitis and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27, to line 4 on page 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In another embodiment, the method of producing a remedy for allergic diseases of the present invention comprises (1) a step of dissolving sugar in sterilized water to prepare a solution containing dissolved sugar, and (2) a step of adding shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ to said solution containing dissolved sugar followed by spontaneous fermentation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The more specific method of producing a remedy for allergic diseases comprises (1) a step of dissolving sugar in hot water to prepare a sugar aqueous solution then the solution being cooled to ambient temperature, and (2) a step of adding water-washed shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ to said sugar aqueous solution, placing the solution into a vessel and sealing the vessel followed by spontaneous fermentation, and the spontaneous fermentation is preferably conducted by placing the sealed

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vessel at a place receiving direct sunlight until early winter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention also contemplates a health food obtained by mixing shoots of plant belonging to the family Pinaceae with water and saccharides followed by spontaneous fermentation, and the health food is preferably obtained by mixing shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ with water and sugar followed by spontaneous fermentation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For preparing the starting solution used in the fermentation, about 0.5 kg of saccharide is dissolved in 1 liter of water. Then, to the resulting solution, about 25 shoots of plant belonging to the family Pinaceae are added. In this case, the saccharide is not required to be completely dissolved and there is no problem if the saccharide presents remaining undissolved in the solution. The starting solution to be fermented may advantageously contain shoots of plants belonging to the family Pinaceae such as shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ in the ratio set forth in the above, and there is no problem if it contains ~~leaves and~~ flowers other than the shoots.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ of *Pinus thunbergii* Parl., *Pinus densiflora* Sieb. & Zucc and *Larix kaempferi* (Lamb.) Carriere were collected when pine blooming was completed (in Fukushima prefecture in Japan, around middle May to early June), and the collected shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ were washed thoroughly with water. White sugar was added and dissolved into hot water, and cooled to around room temperature, and the resulting sugar water and water-washed shoots of pine ~~leaves~~ were placed in a vessel, for example, a plastic vessel, the vessel is sealed, and the vessel is placed at a place receiving direct sunlight until early winter (around middle November, in Fukushima pref.) to cause spontaneous fermentation for the production. The vessel was opened around early winter, and the pine ~~leaves~~ were removed to obtain the remedy for allergies of the

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present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For the sugar water used, about 1 kg of white sugar was used per about 2 liters of water, and 50 pine ~~leaves~~ were used per about 2 liters of water.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As described above, the production was conducted using 1 kg of white sugar and about 50 pine leaf-shoots were used per about 2 liter of water, which resulted in about 1.2 liter (about 60% of the charged sugar water) of a remedy for allergies in the form of liquid having white turbidity. The components of the remedy and the content were analyzed, and the results are shown in Table 3.